

## A BOOM IN ORANGES

THE JUICY FRUIT OF FLORIDA.

Some of the Magnificent Groves in the State—The  
Yield of Prosperous Trees—Annual Income  
of the Largest Owners—Stories  
of Their Wealth.

*Special Correspondence of the Republican.*

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., April 5.—It is said that a Florida orange grower "boom" is abroad in the West. However this may be, the following extract from a letter written North by a chief of division of the General Land Office would seem to justify a Florida orange "boom" in any section of the country: "Florida is the home of the orange by adoption, but it takes kindly to her soil, as it grows wild all through the central part of the State. A. J. Smith, of St. John's River, and whose wife is half-Sister to Mrs. J. M. Smith, told me of a tree on Lake Monroe that a few years since bore 13,000 oranges, and sold on the tree for two cents a piece, making an income from this one tree of \$260. Several trees are known to have borne this large crop in one year. The trees usually blossom the last of February, and the fruit is marketable by the last of November."

IT DOES NOT LOSE ITS GRIP

as do the apple and peach, but hangs on the trees until the new blossoms put out, and sometimes

perfection until January or February. By March it begins to lose its juice, and is dry or pithy. Parties here first begin to pick the berries when the snow flows like the tide, though not so rapidly, and from the same cause. A man examines his fruit in March and finds it light and easily compressed; in a few days it is full of juice, and this at the time of picking. Orange trees are set in rows each way, and from seven to ten feet apart. Some of the oldest trees in the State (forty-five years) are fifteen inches through near the ground, thirty feet high, and twenty feet across. Such trees will bear from three thousand to eight thousand oranges annually. Parties who sell their fruit are paid for each bushel and a quarter to two cents each for their oranges.

THESE ARE GROVES IN THE STATE that yield their owners an annual income of \$40,000. Mr. Norris, of Chicago, has one of the best groves at Spring Garden that I have ever seen. He has 120 acres of them, and has let down a gate through his grove to the lake, where his packing house is situated. That portion nearest the lake was a wild grove. In fact,

tree trunks, four or five feet from the ground, and banded them. The next year the trees were cut out in the grove you see log-heap after log-heap, and all between them trees full of golden fruit. The trees are very hardy and the fibre exceedingly tough, so that they are able to sustain the great weight of fruit they often bear. A tree that bears 6,000 pounds of fruit is not considered a large one. The wife of a gentleman whose hospitality I had the pleasure of sharing several years before the war

PLANTED ORANGE SEEDS

in a box. The seeds grew, and soon the box was too small for the young trees. So, upon the wife's suggestion, the trees were planted out in the garden, of about two-thirds of an acre. The war came on and they left their home to seek a more secure abiding place. With the closing fortunes of the war he returned to his home, with a large family of children to support, and his property all gone. The next year the trees began to grow, and he then found it ready market for his crop of fruit, being able to contract for all on the trees at \$4 per hundred for a

that almost his entire dependence for the support of his family for years after the war was on his timber. He has a large tract of land which has brought him an annual income of from \$1,000 to \$2,000. \* \* \*. The theme of conversation on the river boats is oranges. It is something like the gold excavations of 1849, and

I AM NOT SURPRISED AT IT.

For I have heard of some who come here but a few years since who now have groves that have refused thirty, forty, and fifty thousand dollars for \* \* \*. Orange and lemon trees do not shed their leaves this season. The frost killed them in Northern Florida, and the trees are leafless for the first time in years. The groves are not injured. I saw fine pineapple plants on Lake Harris. In our garden were 400 plants, the fruit from which sells annually for \$200. A letter from the Duchess de Castilleja is more descriptive of the scenery of the orange-growing State. The Duchess says: "The orange groves are the most beautiful. In Dummit Grove) up the river on a swift-sailing yacht, and had a lovely sail of ten miles, amusing ourselves with gun and line. We arrived at the

AND SUCH A GLORIOUS SUNSET!

The little bay washing the shores of the grove was lighted through the trees by the soft, soft twilight ushered us through the golden orange grove to our little hamlet for the night. We were awakened by the morning sunlight streaming through the rafters of our cabin, and were astonished to find that the sun at the windows contained a reflection of the orange grove. The grove of doors for all harm we might have had from the night air. Truly this is a wonderful climate! A view of the orange grove is truly impressive; its trees, either laden with its golden fruit or wreathed with blossoms, is all that fancy pictures to the eye. The orange grove is a wonderful climate. He has commenced improvement on a grand scale. The erection of a villa, two stories and attic, seventy feet front, of pure Italian design; the erection of small houses for the Italian orange-growers to live in, and the grove to be planted with all possible fruit trees.

ALL PRESENTS VERY BROTHERLY,

as we have now a force of seventy men at work transplanting trees, cutting roads, &c. Apologies, we shall have a splendid road, forty feet wide,

spoon beach gives us a drive of twenty miles to reach the top of the mountain. He expects to increase the drive to two thousand beating trees, and has in view the culture of pine-apples, as they are said to be very profitable here. I have grown bold and fearless to the sight of bear or wildcat, as I find they usually run from me. I have seen the Nephelium tree, "Naples is a bit of Paradise fallen from above." If this saying is true, certainly a bit of the same Paradise has fallen on Indian River." C.

**TELEGRAPHIC ABSTRACTIONS.**

THE Whittaker court-martial has adjourned until the 18th instant.

A LARGE seal was caught in the Delaware River at Red Bank yesterday.

HATTIE DUELL, the idiot who is starving herself to death in Iowa, is still alive. What a pity!

THERE is no change in Lieutenant-Governor Hoakins' condition. He is still very low, and death may occur at any moment.

the Chicago post-office, has been arrested for stealing money letters and held in default of \$3,000.

**GEORGE BURTON**, eldest daughter of Edward W. Carpenter, superintendent of the Albany Water-Works, was found dead in her room yesterday morning, having been suffocated with gas.

**JOHN MCKAY**, of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, presents a challenge to Peter H. Conley, of Portland, for a four-mile scull race at Bedford, Maine, N. S., for \$500 a side, to take place about the middle of the month.

The winter wheat crop has suffered severely by the storms and floods in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Northern Illinois. The rain-fall in California has added to the joy of the farmers and gardeners of California.

**PATRICK COLEMAN**, who, it is alleged, was in the plot to blow up the Mansion House in London and who sailed from England in the steamship Australia, arrived in New York Saturday under an assumed name and is safely lodged in what is called the "Hotel."

**HON. SILAS C. CRANDALL**, a prominent

Friday evening. At first it was thought he had been killed by falling from his carriage, but when Hammond has been arrested on charge of killing him.

The Missouri River at Omaha is twenty-two feet six inches above low-water mark, and two feet one-half higher than was ever known before. The rise since six o'clock Saturday morning is six inches. The lumber-yards on the river front are flooded, and the railroad tracks submerged.

On Thursday last a man named Goodwin was arrested, charged with larceny, and lodged in jail at Clearfield, Pa. Saturday night a man and woman, claiming to be the brother and sister of the prisoner, drove to the jail and were admitted to Goodwin's cell. After they left Goodwin was found dead from knife-wounds. The sheriff returned the strange man and woman, now called suspects at Clearfield, and they are now in prison.